

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1567

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Accurately Counting
3 Risk Elimination Solutions Act” or the “ACRES Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**
5 **PORTS.**

6 (a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION
7 REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE
8 PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-
10 cal year that begins after the date of the enactment
11 of this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-
12 retary concerned shall include in the materials sub-
13 mitted in support of the President’s budget pursuant
14 to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a re-
15 port on the number of acres of Federal land on
16 which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous
17 fuels reduction activities during the preceding fiscal
18 year.

19 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the re-
20 port required under paragraph (1), the Secretary
21 concerned shall—

22 (A) in determining the number of acres of
23 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned
24 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities
25 during the period covered by the report—

1 (i) record acres of Federal land on
2 which hazardous fuels reduction activities
3 were completed during such period; and

4 (ii) record each acre described in
5 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of
6 whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction
7 activities were carried out on such acre
8 during such period; and

9 (B) with respect to the acres of Federal
10 land recorded in the report, include information
11 on—

12 (i) which such acres are located in the
13 wildland-urban interface;

14 (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,
15 moderate, or low) on the first and last day
16 of the period covered by the report;

17 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels ac-
18 tivities completed for such acres, delin-
19 eating between whether such activities
20 were conducted—

21 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-
22 source benefits; or

23 (II) through a planned project;

1 (iv) the cost per acre of hazardous
2 fuels activities carried out during the pe-
3 riod covered by the report;

4 (v) the region or system unit in which
5 the acres are located; and

6 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous
7 fuels reduction activities on reducing the
8 risk of wildfire.

9 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned
10 shall make each report submitted under paragraph
11 (1) publicly available on the website of the Depart-
12 ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-
13 rior, as applicable.

14 (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
17 concerned shall implement standardized procedures
18 for tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduc-
19 tion activities carried out by the Secretary con-
20 cerned.

21 (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures
22 required under paragraph (1) shall include—

23 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of
24 the accuracy and timely input of data used to
25 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

1 (B) verification methods that validate
2 whether such data accurately correlates to the
3 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out
4 by the Secretary concerned;

5 (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term
6 effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction
7 activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

8 (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities
9 that occur partially within the wildland-urban
10 interface, methods to distinguish which acres
11 are located within the wildland-urban interface
12 and which acres are located outside the
13 wildland-urban interface.

14 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 weeks after im-
15 plementing the standardized procedures required
16 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall
17 submit to Congress a report that describes—

18 (A) such standardized procedures; and

19 (B) program and policy recommendations
20 to Congress to address any limitations in track-
21 ing data related to hazardous fuels reduction
22 activities under this subsection.

23 (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the
24 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
25 of the United States shall—

1 (1) conduct a study on the implementation of
2 this Act, including any limitations with respect to—

3 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-
4 tivities under subsection (a); or

5 (B) tracking data related to hazardous
6 fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);
7 and

8 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes
9 the results of the study under paragraph (1).

10 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

11 (1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-
12 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction activ-
13 ity”—

14 (A) means any vegetation management ac-
15 tivity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including
16 mechanical treatments and prescribed burning;
17 and

18 (B) does not include the awarding of con-
19 tracts to conduct hazardous fuels reduction ac-
20 tivities.

21 (2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term “Federal
22 lands” means lands under the jurisdiction of the
23 Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agri-
24 culture.

3 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
4 spect to National Forest System lands; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands and units of the National Park System.

(4) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term “wildland-urban interface” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

(e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act, and the activities authorized by this Act are subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purposes.

Passed the House of Representatives September 13,
2023.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.